The Volunteering England Archive:

An Overview and Historical Background

Anjelica Finnegan and Georgina Brewis
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Introduction

Volunteering England is the national development agency for volunteering and was created from a merger of three organisations in 2004: the Consortium on Opportunities for Volunteering, the National Centre for Volunteering and Volunteer Development England. A fourth organisation, Student Volunteering England, merged with Volunteering England 2007. The first Chief Executive of the new organisation was Christopher Spence, CBE. Initially the organisation had offices in both London and Birmingham. See www.volunteering.org.uk for more information.

The Volunteering England Archive documents the modern history of volunteering in England. The collection contains materials from Volunteering and its predecessor organisations that date from the formation of the Commission on the Role of the Voluntary Worker in the Social Services (Aves Commission) in 1966. The archive has been organised into twelve sections:

1. Aves and the establishment of the Volunteer Centre UK
2. Volunteer Centre UK
3. Media Project
4. PIVOT, National Association of Voluntary Helper Organisers (NAVHO) and National Association of Voluntary Service Managers (NAVSM) collection
5. National Association of Volunteer Bureaux (NAVB) and Volunteer Development England (VDE) Collection
6. Trade Union and Strike Collection
7. Student Volunteering
8. Voluntary Action History Society
9. Home Office and the Voluntary Service Unit
10. Periodicals
11. Consortium on Opportunities for Volunteering
12. The Commission on the Future of Volunteering

Section 1: Aves and the Volunteer Centre UK

Background to the Aves Commission

In 1966 an independent commission on the place of and scope for volunteers in the social services in England and Wales was set up by the National Council of Social Service (afterwards the National Council of Voluntary Organisations) and the National Institute of Social Work Training. The setting up of the commission was a significant moment in the development of a specialist infrastructure to support volunteers and volunteering at local and national level. Since 1919 the National Council of Social Service provided support and advice to voluntary workers and the organisations that involved them while the role of volunteers in relationship to state welfare services had been the subject of a number of reports and research studies, including William Beveridge’s *Voluntary Action* (1948) and the often neglected commission chaired by Lady Norman on voluntary service and the NHS (1952). Moreover, in order to better direct potential volunteers government in the early 1960s sponsored the publication of guides to voluntary service at home and created a new programme for graduate volunteers overseas in 1962. However, by the late 1960s demand was growing for a specialist national centre to promote and support the concept of volunteering as well as for the creation of organisations to help recruit and place volunteers at local level.

The commission was chaired by Geraldine Aves (1898-1986), a retired social worker and former UN advisor on welfare. Known officially as the Commission on the Role of the Voluntary Worker in the Social Services, it ran from 1966-1969. The commission was constituted by two groups: the Committee of Enquiry and the Working Party on Preparation and Training.

The Committee of Enquiry included membership of:

**Miss Geraldine M. Aves, C.B.E.** - Chairman

**Hugh Barr** - Director, Teamwork Associates: a pilot project in prison after-care. (co-opted February 1968).

**Miss Joan Eastman** - Lecturer in Social Work, University of Exeter

**Alan Gibson** - Head, The Youth Service Information Centre (to March 1969). (Co-opted February 1968)/

**Miss E.M. Goldberg** - Director of Research, National institute

**Roy A. Jackson** - Director of Studies, Trades Union Congress

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Miss Elisabeth Littlejohn, J.P. - Secretary, Standing Conference of Councils of Social Service. National Council of Social Service,

H. Morris-Jones - Professor and Head of Department of Social Theory and Institutions, University College of North Wales, Bangor.

R.S.J Potter - County Welfare Officer, Hertfordshire County Council.

E.G. Pratt - Assistant Principal Probation Officer, Hertfordshire County Council

Mrs. W. E. Riddell - Voluntary Worker, Chairman Ealing Association for Mental Health.

Miss Helen Roberts O.B.E. - Secretary, Sheffield Diocesan Social Responsibility Council.


Miss G. M. Wansborough-Jones, O.B.E. - Hon. Secretary from May 1968

The Working Party on Preparation and Training included membership of:

Miss Geraldine M. Aves, C.B.E - Chairman

Hugh Barr - Teamwork Associates

Alan Gibson - The Youth Service Information Centre

Roy A. Jackson - Member of Main Committee

Miss Alice Johnston, C.B.E. - Women's Royal Voluntary Service

Miss Jaqueline M. Knight - British Red Cross Society

Miss Elisabeth Littlejohn, J. P. - Member of main Committee

Mrs Edith Morgan - National Association for Mental Health

Mrs Denise Newman - National Old People’s Welfare Council

Mrs. Eve Road - Blackfriars Family Counsellors Project

Jef Smith - Member of main Committee

The collection

The boxes relating to the Aves Commission is comprised of evidence collected for the report including completed questionnaires, draft chapters of the report, and minutes from those meetings which brought about the creation of the Volunteer Centre UK. The collection also includes:

- Documents from the Working Party and Main Committee – minutes, evidence etc.
- Reports/circulars/documents before Aves Commission.
- Press Cuttings
- Aves Committee Draft Reports: chapters and paragraphs.
Extra seminars: e.g. European Seminar on *The Functions and Training of Voluntary Social Welfare Workers* (Arnoldshain, Franfurt-am-Main, 2-12 May 1966)


Research and Pilot Studies

Social Service and Personal Service Councils: Including correspondence and annual reports.

- Greenwich Council of Social Service
- Liverpool Personal Service Society (Inc)
- Leeds Council of Social Service.
- Community Council for Wiltshire
- Southwark Council of Social Service
- Diocese of Hereford – Council for Social Work
- Scottish Council of Social Service
- Teesside Council of Social Service

Follow up to Committee’s report: Press Cuttings.

Correspondence from organizations and individuals who were involved in and contributed to the report.

Articles from journals. E.g. the lancet 1966.

A list of the organizations which offered evidence to the commission.

Information about Geraldine Aves.

Section 2: The Volunteer Centre

The final report of the Aves Commission, published in 1969, recommended the establishment of a new national, independent membership organisation or ‘Volunteer Foundation’. The report called for any such organisation to be funded by a ‘generous initial grant from public funds’. In this the Commission found themselves in tune with Ted Heath’s government, elected in June 1970, which was keen to support the development of infrastructure to help voluntary bodies operate more effectively. For example Lord Windlesham, Minister of State at the Home Office, was given responsibility for ‘co-ordinating the Government’s interests in the field of voluntary social services’ and a Voluntary Services Unit formed.

In 1971 a promotional group was set up, under the Chairmanship of Baroness Serota, to lobby for and negotiate with the Heath government and other charitable trusts for funding. The establishment of the Volunteer Centre was announced at the end of 1972 and the new centre’s governing body met for the first time in January 1973.

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Geraldine Aves became a founder member of its board of governors and, from 1974, vice-president. It was largely this work that led to her later appointment as DBE in 1977. The Centre’s work started in earnest in September 1973 with Mike Thomas as its first Director. Thomas resigned in September 1974 and was elected Labour MP for Newcastle East in the October General Election of that year. He was replaced by Ian Bruce, who was responsible for putting the Volunteer Centre’s work on a firm footing.

The collection

- Volunteer Centre Minutes (1977-1993)
- Secretary of State's speech to the Volunteer Centre AGM (1977)
- Correspondence (1998-2002)
- 'School for Social Entrepreneurs' (1998)
- 'Task Force 2002'
- Directors reports (1993-1995)
- 'Strengthening Vol in NHS 1998' - Papers relating to the Working party on Strengthening Volunteering in the NHS including minutes.

Section 3: Media Project

The creation and workings of the Media Project

The Media Project, established in 1976, aimed ‘to develop the social usefulness of broadcasting by being a link between voluntary bodies and broadcasters’. It did so by publishing research papers, encouraging policy debates and delivering training. The project was run by the Volunteer Centre and joint-funded by the BBC and the

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6 Volunteer Centre Board Papers [LSE/VolunteeringEngland/1/2]
Independent Broadcasting Agency (IBA). Initially headed by Eileen Ware; Moyra Tourlamain took the reins in 1986. In addition to advertising voluntary opportunities through Public Service Announcements (PSAs), The Volunteer Centre worked to facilitate a ‘fruitful’ partnership between social welfare agencies and broadcasters in order to portray social issues through television and radio. Doreen Stephens, chairman of the ‘steering committee towards an association for broadcasters, voluntary and statutory organisations involved in social action’, saw the volunteer centre as a pioneering body bringing the voluntary services unit (VSU), BBC, IBA and Voluntary/Statutory bodies together to meet the challenge for social action and voluntary work in the 80s.

The collection

The Media Project collection provides details of Public Service Announcements (PSAs): These announcements informed people about opportunities to volunteer in their communities. Also included in this section are details of the television programmes supported by the project, including: Reports Action, Grapevine, Open Door and Help!

- List of Journal Articles
- Festival Hall Conference July 1977: Community Participation through Television and Radio Conference
- Public Service Announcements (PSA) – applications forms for PSAs, Independent Broadcasting Authority Guidelines, pamphlets etc.
- PSA Seminar (June 1983)
- PSA Schemes [Central TV]
- Volunteer Centre Pack – PSA Seminar
  - Television South West - Correspondence from TSW concerning PSAs.
  - Includes comments on the draft report of PSAs in 1982 which was written by the Media Project.
  - British Library correspondence - Information regarding the Research Officer post at the ‘community information services’
- Letters from Loughborough University Library
- Mark Hodgkinson folder
  - Notes for Media Project local radio Training Course
  - ‘Getting the Message Across: Effective publicity and media coverage’
  - ‘Reasons for using local radio’
  - ‘Sandwell Council for Voluntary Service’
  - ‘Notes for Media Project local Radio training course’
  - ‘Know Where’ - An magazine aimed at individuals involved in community groups
  - Analysis of November 1983 directory of Social Action Programmes.
- Memorandum – press releases.
Section 4: PIVOT, The National Association of Volunteer Help Organisers (NAVHO) and The National Association of Voluntary Service Managers (NAVSM).

The case for better co-ordination and support of volunteers has been made repeatedly since at least the Aves Commission report of 1969 until the Commission on the Future of Volunteering (2008), which called for greater investment in volunteer management. Recent efforts have been made to refocus the attention of the volunteering sector and policy makers on volunteer support and management. An early example of this was the National Association of Voluntary Help Organisers (NAVHO) founded in 1968. NAVHO, later NAVSM, was created with the intention of providing support information and training to VHOs who were struggling to define their roles within the NHS.

This development was strongly supported by the King’s Fund which organised training days and appointed a development officer for VHOs. As the involvement of the King’s Fund wound down, the emphasis shifted to the association itself to meet the developmental and training responsibilities of its members. It wasn’t until the late 1960s that the role of the Voluntary Services Organiser was generally recognised as a salaried and professional position.

In 1975 the NAHVO, with financial support from the Volunteer Centre, established a working party chaired by an independent person in order to examine its role and organisation. This was done with the view to widen membership beyond health organisations. The working party was established in a time when volunteer organisers were non-existent in local authorities. Moreover, Pre-1968 volunteer organisers worked voluntarily, it wasn’t until this date that salaried positions were authorised by hospitals.

Members of the Working Party Included:

- **Chairman**: Miss Geraldine M. Aves. C.B.E.
- **Miss Sue Barnett** - Recently V.H.O for the “grapevine” project
- **Miss Joan Eastman** - Formerly lecturer in Social Studies Dept, University of Exeter.
- **Mr Tim Hulbert** - Voluntary Services Advisor, Leicestershire Social Services Dept.
- **Mr David E. James Esq.** - Director of Adult Education Dept. University of Surrey.
- **Miss J. Knight** - Welfare Advisor, British Red Cross soc.
- **Mr Bob McCoull** - Chairman NAVHO
- **Mrs. Marie McGlone** - Deputy Chairman NAVHO
- **Mr John A. Pendleton** - Deputy Chief Probation Officer. West Midlands Metropolitan Area
The report published by the Working Party was PIVOT: People Involved in Volunteer Organisations and Tasks. This report suggested that a new organisation was needed. It was considered that the Volunteer Centre was the natural place to start as it was an independent agency which promoted and assisted increased community involvement in health, education and penal services. However, because of its broad remit it was decided a separate organisation to support volunteer organisers should be established.

In 1994 NAVHO changed its name to National Association of Voluntary Service Managers (NAVSM -- http://www.navsm.org.uk/) in order to reflect the development of member organisations’ move to a more structured management position.

The Collection

- PIVOT Report and Drafts
    - Minutes and Agendas for meetings occurring between March1975 and January 1976.
    - PIVOT: Final Report
    - Draft reports
  - PIVOT Correspondence
    - Articles of Association – Includes Questions relevant to NAVHO e.g. asking whether membership should be granted on condition of a paper qualification.
    - Interim report – what qualifications are needed by volunteer organisers?
  - Misc: April 1970-December 1975
    - NAVHO Policy document (44/1): “Planning the appointment of a voluntary help organiser and the setting up of volunteering help schemes”.
    - Correspondence
    - Phone conversations with: Mrs E Griffin, Hon sec of NAVHO; Mrs Culmies-Ross.
    - Notes from informal discussion with Miss Joan Baraclough.
    - “Voice” (July 1975) – Quarterly Journal of the NAVHO
    - Press cutting re: DofE.
    - Survey of volunteers expenses.
- **Questionnaires**
  - Working Party Questionnaires investigating the structure, working and future development of NAVHO – some include attachments, e.g. accompanying letters.
- **Numbered Documents – Working Party NAVHO**
  - Original list of numbered documents
  - List of organisations and individuals who assisted the committee.
  - M2: List of members of Working Party
  - M3: Questionnaire
  - M4: Minutes of First meeting – 27th June 1975.
  - M6: Development of NAVHO – Mrs. McGlone’s paper.
  - M7: The Brief History and Development of the Northern Regional Branch of the NAVHO.
  - M8: Basic Questions (points of departure) for those giving evidence to the working party.
  - M9: Role of the National Bodies – by David James
  - M10: Minutes of 2nd meeting of the working party on NAHVO – 1st August 1975
  - M14: Minutes of the third meeting – 26th September 1975
  - M15: Evidence from the Management Committee of NAVHO – Mrs Griffin’s paper.
  - M16: Salary Structure
  - M16 A: Classification of Salary Grading (Mr McCoull).
  - M17: Salary Comparisons
  - M18: YVO salaries – John Winslade paper
  - M19: Scottish Association of Voluntary Services Co-ordinators (SAVSC) paper
  - M20: Dr. Leat’s summary of answers to question 13 of questionnaire
  - M21: Reply to Questionnaire in “VOICE” - from Mrs King
  - M22: Minutes of the fourth meeting – Friday 7th November 1975
    - + agenda
  - M23: Miss Elizabeth Littlejohn’s paper
  - M24: Evidence from Volunteer Bureau – Mrs. Sheila Stace’s paper
  - M25: Figures re: volunteer organisers on the London Council of Social Services – Miss Anne Bain’s paper
  - M26: Notes from Salle Gray, General Secretary, Stevenage Council for Voluntary Service
  - M27: Draft outline of working party’s report.
Section 5: National Association of Volunteer Bureaux (NAVBO) and Volunteer Development England (VDE)

Historical background on the volunteer bureaux

In the 1960s the first local ‘volunteer bureaux’ were established to help members of the public find volunteering opportunities. These early organisations were funded by trusts and small statutory grants. Such initiatives were praised in the Aves Commission report and by other commentators such as Labour MP Richard Crossman in his 1973 Sidney Ball lecture on the ‘Role of the Volunteer in the Modern Social Service’. The Aves Report noted ‘we have been impressed by the value of volunteer bureaux in the comparatively few places where they are to be found at present; and we believe that there is need and demand for a network of such centres to cover the whole country’.

At the same time as the Volunteer Centre was being established in 1973 the National Council for Social Service received a Home Office grant to appoint an officer to support the development of these local volunteer bureaux. In 1976 this work was taken over by the by then established Volunteer Centre. As a result of this support the local volunteer bureaux network experienced rapid growth from 23 in 1969 to 53 in 1972, 110 in 1975 and 180 less than

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8 Aves, *Voluntary Worker*, 189.
a decade later in 1978. To better support this expanding network the Volunteer Centre helped to establish in 1988 an independent organisation called the National Association of Volunteer Bureaux (NAVB). Based in Birmingham, NAVB changed its name to Volunteer Development England in 2002 and merged with the other two organisations to become Volunteering England in 2004. Volunteering England retained offices in London and Birmingham until 2007. This collection contains newsletters and other publications from NAVB / VDE that was transferred to Volunteering England when the office closed.

Each ‘NAVB News’ and ‘NAVB Bulletin’ publications offer information concerning the state of volunteering in the UK e.g the first NAVB news from 1996 looks at the “UK Voluntary Sector in the 1990s”. Therefore, this collection provides a useful insight into what, according to the NAVB, were the issues facing volunteering and the sector at the time.

**The Collection**

- **NAVB – “everyone needs ‘friends’”**
- **Friends of NAVB Newsletters**
- **NAVB Bulletin**
- **NAVB News: ‘NAVB – the voice of Volunteer Bureaux’**
  - 105 (April 1998)
  - January 2001 – April 2001 (May, June, July missing) August 2001; September 2001; October 2001; November 2001
- **‘Action’ - The newsletter of Volunteer Development England (**

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Section 6: Volunteers and Trade Unions

An Uneasy Alliance: background to the relationship between volunteers and the Trade Unions

Volunteers have historically been viewed as potential threats to both levels of pay and to absolute numbers of jobs, especially during periods of economic stagnation. Indeed, successive 20th century governments encouraged volunteers to act as strike-breakers, most notoriously during the 1926 General Strike.\(^\text{10}\) The post-war evolution of the welfare state and extension of public ownership changed the nature of voluntary work in the health and personal social services. Therefore some of these long-standing tensions between paid workers and volunteers relaxed. However, with both the Seebohm and Aves Reports calling for increased involvement of volunteers in the health and personal social services and the growth of a new profession of Voluntary Service Managers, up from 14 in 1967 to 200 in 1973, tensions were set to rise.\(^\text{11}\)

In retaliation to this perceived influx of volunteers, the Health Service Union - the Confederation of Health Service Employees (COHSE) - called for a ban on all volunteers in hospitals. However, this was ignored by the Conservative Government which proceeded to deploy volunteers during the 1973 health service disputes.\(^\text{12}\) Mike Thomas, then director of the Volunteer Centre, called on Government to use the army to alleviate the strain on public services during times of emergency rather than putting long-term placement of volunteers in jeopardy. One of the first projects of the Volunteer Centre was to bring together representatives of public sector unions and volunteer-involving organisations, under the chairmanship of Geoffrey Drain from the National Association of Local Government Officers (NALGO), to draw up an agreement on the use of volunteer labour during strikes.\(^\text{13}\)

The membership of the Drain working group included sector workers and Trade Union representatives:

**Gregory Drain** - Chairman

**Susan Belgrave** - Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) and Volunteer Reading Help (VRH)

**Nicholas Hinton** - (NSCC)

**Iris Griffin** - NAVHO

**David Hobman** - Age Concern

**Anne Spokes** - (AMA)

**Roger Poole** - (NUPE)

**David Williams** - COHSE

**Helen Eadie** - General and Municipal Workers Union (GMWU)


\(^{11}\) Ibid., 34.

\(^{12}\) Ibid.

The Drain Guidelines, issued in 1975, condemned the use of volunteers in industrial disputes. The guidelines were well-received amongst voluntary service co-ordinators during the 1979 industrial strikes. 80% reported that they found them helpful. The early 1980s saw continued tensions between Trade Unions and volunteers, as Government encouraged volunteers to replace unskilled workers in the public services. Revised in 1990, the influence of the Drain Guidelines on successive governments is hard to detect but they informed volunteering practice until 2006, when Volunteering England worked to update and replace them, in cooperation with the TUC, Local Government Association and NHS Employers’ Confederation.

The collection

- Press Cuttings up to 1980s re: strikes and volunteering.
- Advice re: how/when to use volunteers in “emergencies”.
  - ‘The Use of Volunteers in an Emergency: A paper to the civil contingencies unit’
  - ‘Emergency Public Action: Advice to Managers’ by the Volunteer Centre
  - Department of Health and Social Security: ‘Health Service Management if Industrial Relations Break Down’.
  - Documents concerning the Drain Guidelines.
    - Meeting of the Guidelines Working group which details who sits on the working party.
    - Draft revisions of draft of 26.10.79
    - Response from National and Local Government Officers Association to the Guidelines
  - Includes letters from MPs (9th Feb 1979 – 10th April 1982) re: volunteer centre’s approach to volunteers during industrial action.
  - Hospital correspondence (25th Jan 1979- 26th April 1979). Includes letters to volunteers re: the strikes.
- Reports/letters/papers re: Trade Unions and Volunteers
  - Includes a statement from the volunteer centre
- Reports/letters/papers re: relationship between paid workers and volunteers during the strike
  - ‘Volunteers and Labour Unions in Great Britain’ – By. I.W. Bruce.
  - ‘The role of Volunteers During a Strike’ by Linda L. Graff
  - NALGO news
  - “Volunteers and organised labour: an uneasy alliance”
Section 7: Student Volunteering

Student Volunteering: a brief history

The Student Volunteer Collection dates from the formation of the NUS Student Community Action programme in 1970. Higher education students have a long tradition of involvement in volunteering in local communities, but from the late 1960s students began to press for more effective involvement of students with community problem marking transition from traditional social ‘service’ to community ‘action’. Students began to come together to develop the SCA movement. Between 1969 and 1971 the Barrow and Geraldine S. Cadbury Trust funded a two-year national scheme to support local community action groups through visits from project staff and conferences, which culminated in the publication of Alan Barr’s Student Community Action.

At the same time the NUS was seeking funding for a programme ‘to transform community action among students from a minority activities confined to religious societies, or small action groups, to a majority activity of students with the funding being provided by student unions.’ An advisory group was formed to advise NUS on SCA, comprising members elected by the National Conference on Student Social Action and three NUS executive members given responsibility for SCA. Administrative support was received from staff within the Education and Welfare Department of NUS and a newsletter was started in October 1970. By the start of the autumn term 1971 two full-time members of staff at NUS – Ray Phillips and Jane Hustwit – had been appointed to development roles with funding from the Gulbenkian Foundation and King George’s Jubilee Trust. They began to collected information and resources on SCA, publish the newsletter, organise conferences, and facilitate the growth of regional student community action networks.

The work expanded to cover environmental work and by 1974 was known as the NUS Community Action and Environment Unit. With this support network in place, Student Community Action groups flourished in many colleges, universities and polytechnics. By 1978 there were 100 SCA groups, many of which had become registered charities and employed workers, and a further 100 student unions were involved in related work.

In 1978 however NUS funding for student community action was withdrawn after a financial crisis which saw the collapse of NUS Travel, although it retained an executive member responsible for SCA work. In its place an

17 The executive members were Mike Terry, Digby Jacks and John Wilson.
NUS, Student Community Action; NUS, Annual Conference, Margate 1969, Amendments to Agenda, MSS 280/86/3, NUS Archive.
19 Student Community Action Newsletter, Vol 2, no. 1 (1971)
20 Student Community Action Newsletter, Vol 2, no. 1 (1971)
independent committee called SCARP (Student Community Action Resource Programme) was established in July 1978 with four staff in London and two in Manchester. This project effectively took over a defunct SCA group called London OSCA, which was a registered charity. The group received half its running costs from the VSU within the Home Office.\textsuperscript{22}

SCARP’s outspoken style, peaking with a notorious call for students to Rock against Thatcher and ‘rinse out blue scum’ led to Teddy Taylor, Conservative MP for Southend East, to launch an attack on SCARP during a speech in May 1980.\textsuperscript{23} Beset by bad publicity and financial mismanagement the Student Community Action Resource Programme folded and the entire staff team was made redundant. For a few months there was no national organisation in place to support student volunteering but students involved in SCA elected a National Committee to support the network of groups across the country. In 1981 the Student Community Action Development Unit (SCADU) was set up with new funding from the VSU and reemployed former SCARP worker Olivia Dix who worked closely with student representatives on the SCA National Committee. SCADU became a registered charity in 1983).

In the mid 1980s there were SCA groups in 90 universities, colleges and polytechnics involving 15,000 students a year. Thirty of the larger and more established groups employed a member of staff. SCADU staff continued to support the work of local groups through publications, field visits, training events, conferences and network meetings. It established an annual celebration called Student Volunteering Week in 2001 and developed a series of awards and certificates for student volunteers. In the 1990s SCADU became known as the National Centre for Student Volunteering before changing its name to Student Volunteering UK in 2000 and Student Volunteering England (SVE) in 2003. SVE merged with Volunteering England in 2007.

The Collection

The student volunteering section of the archive hosts an array of literature which follows the developments in student volunteering, including a variety of publicity documents from the national infrastructure bodies including Volunteering England and its predecessors.

A significant part of the collection is constituted of university-specific handbooks published by their individual Student Community Action groups. Universities for which we have a selection of handbooks include:

\textsuperscript{22} Dave Carter, ‘The Closure of SCARP and current plans for the future’,
Birkbeck College, University of London
Brighton and Sussex University
De Montfort University
Durham University
Edge Hill University
Kingston University London
Leeds Metropolitan University
Loughborough University
Newcastle University
Queen Mary University, London
Roehampton University
Sheffield University
Surrey University
University of Bath
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol and University of The West of England (UWE)
University of Cambridge
University of Derby

University of East Anglia (UEA)
University of Exeter
University of Gloucestershire (Cheltenham and Gloucester)
University of Huddersfield
University of Lancaster
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of Liverpool
University of Luton
University of Manchester
University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology
University of Nottingham
University of Reading
University of Southampton
University of Warwick
University of Wolverhampton

The collection also houses video and audio footage

- Student Community Action Induction Training Pack
- Reports from Workshops: SCANUS conference at Bristol University. February 12th and 13th 1977.
- Annual Reports SCADU/SVUK 1982-2007 (full set)
- Conference Packs
- Student Volunteering UK, Student Volunteering England and SCADU general information
- Student Volunteering Publications (Not produced by the aforementioned organisations)
- Student Community Action Newsletter
  - October 1970 – May/June 1974
Section 8: Voluntary Action History Society

The Voluntary Action History Society (VAHS) was formed in 1991 to advance the historical study and understanding of voluntary action and of charitable and voluntary organisations. It was founded by a group of individuals working in both academia and the voluntary sector, including Colin Rochester and Justin Davis Smith (CEO of Volunteering England from 2008), who felt that the history of voluntary action and charities was being forgotten or ignored.

Voluntary action was not seen as a subject in its own right, often considered only as a minor part of social policy. Where it was studied historically it was as an insignificant aspect of social history. The founders believed that all too often studies undertaken were left to academics with little thought of the relevance to those active as researchers and practitioners in the voluntary sector. While some excellent histories of charities were available, they were rarely disseminated in the voluntary sector.

Since its inception the society has carried out a number of activities including running a series of seminars on the history of voluntary action, hosting conferences and workshops. VAHS became a registered charity in March 1995 and celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2011. It currently runs a seminar series at the Institute of Historical Research as well as arranging conferences and workshops. See www.vahs.org.uk for more information.

Over time VAHS engaged with particular issues affecting the historical study of voluntary action, including the problems facing the archiving of charity and volunteering history, at one point conducting a survey of voluntary organisations’ archiving needs and drawing up plans for a Voluntary Action archive, which, owing to funding came to nothing.
Section 9: Home Office and The Voluntary Services Unit (VSU)

Under the Wilson administration (1964-1970), a small coordinating unit for the voluntary sector based in the cabinet office was established. However, it was not until the Heath government of 1970-74 that voluntary service was afforded any systematic support from government. The Voluntary Services Unit (VSU) based the Home Office was created during the Heath government of 1970-74. In 1972 Lord Windlesham was appointed as Minister of State with responsibility for ‘co-ordinating the Government’s interests in the field of voluntary social services’. The Voluntary Social Services Section, as it was called, had only a junior minister and no budget, but was able to administer Home Office grants to help establish the Volunteer Centre and to develop the local volunteer bureaux network through the National Council for Social Service (now the National Council for Voluntary Organisations).

The Collection

The collection is made up of 31 boxes largely constituted of correspondence between the VSU and the Volunteer Centre. The collection also offers insight into:

- Grant applications.
- Minutes and papers of meetings of the VSU.
- Minutes and papers of meeting of the ‘Harm Minimisation’ sub-committee.
- Minutes of meetings, papers and correspondence of the Government/Voluntary Sector Forum on Europe.
- Correspondence and papers relating to legal liability for volunteers.
- Minutes of meetings of the ‘Volunteering Partnership’ (VP) and papers relating to them. Includes draft versions of the VP third report on volunteering in support of carers and papers relating to meeting of the VP Youth Sub-Group.

Section 10: Periodicals

This collection covers the dates between 1990 and 2005. It includes the magazines published by the Volunteer Centre UK.

Section 11: The Consortium on Opportunities for Volunteering (OFV)

The OFV collection will be added to over the course of 2012 as the programme comes to an end. This volunteer-supporting programme was set up in 1982 under the Department of Health and Social Security. One of the longest standing government programmes for volunteering, Opportunities for Volunteering merged with the NAVB and Volunteer Centre to create Volunteering England in 2004. The programme initially worked to enable participation
‘in voluntary work in the health and/or social services fields’, focusing predominately on supporting unemployed (people of working age but not in full-time employment) volunteers.  

The Collection

An agreement between the LSE and Volunteering England is in place to ensure that documents which otherwise would be lost will become part of the archive. As of February 2012, the collection currently contains documents covering the dates between 1986 and 2003 including:

- Guidelines and application form for applications to the Opportunities for Volunteering (OFV) General Fund.
- Reports on projects funded by the General Fund of the Opportunities for Volunteering and the Consortium on Opportunities for Volunteering (1986-1993)

Section 12: The Commission on the Future of Volunteering

The Commission on the Future of Volunteering was established following the year of the volunteer in 2005 by the Volunteering Development Council. The Commission was an independent body chaired by The Baroness Neuberger DBE. It was tasked with reporting on the state of volunteering in England at the time and to ascertain any ways in which levels of volunteering could be increased. The Commission was established in 2006 and ended in 2009.

The Collection

The collection contains a copy of each of The Commission’s reports published between 2006 and 2009:

- 'Making sense of volunteering', December 2006;
- 'Volunteering works. Volunteering and social policy', September 2007
- 'Understanding how to engage people in volunteering', January 2008;
- 'Manifesto for change', January 2008;
- 'Results of the public consultation', January 2008;

24 Zimmeck, ‘Government and Volunteering’, 84-102